Bill's Bits

I hope that you had a very Merry Christmas and that you are looking forward to the New Year as much as I am. 1982 has been a very exciting year for me. It was highlighted by my retirement from the Army and the rebirth of the Poquoson Island Times. 1983 will see many challenges here at the newspaper.

I have just learned that Cynthia Hall, an Air Force First Lieutenant, has arrived for duty at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Cynthia is the daughter of Don and Marcia Hall of Poquoson. She is an aircraft maintenance officer with the 12th Flying Training Wing and was previously assigned in Zweibrucken, West Germany.

Lieutenant Colonel John M. McBroom assumed command of the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Langley Air Force Base last week. John, who has lived in Poquoson for the last five years, is a command pilot with over 2700 hours in the air.

We were not able to attend the Poquoson Exchange Club's Christmas party, but Jessica Coleman tells me that it was a real fun event. Crosby Forrest had a nice fire going and had his waitresses dressed as elves. He even donated a large cake with congratulations to the Exchange Club on their first year in Poquoson.

Do you ever wonder why some groups get so much mention in the newspaper while others are never mentioned at all? It's because some keep us posted on what they are doing while others do not. We like to hear from everyone. If you would like more information printed about what your group is doing, fill out the News Coupon on page seven and drop it in the mail or by the office. If you would like to drop by and chat about a story idea, that is fine too. I might suggest that you not come on Wednesdays. That's the day we finish up the paper and don't usually have much time to talk on that day.

We received a couple of comments on Lauris Paden's column concerning the old post offices that used to be in Poquoson. It seems that there was a sixth one at Amory's Wharf which belonged to George W. Amory Sr. It was later purchased by H. Garland Forrest, Sr. who was Mrs. R. Gordon Cox Sr.'s father. Lauris is contacting Mrs. Cox and will have more information on that in future issues.

Would you believe that I have never met Lauris Paden? I get her column and notes slipped in the mail slot regularly and talk to her on the telephone fairly often, but have never had the pleasure of talking to her in person. We plan to get together today and have a nice chat. I'm anxious to find out how she comes up with her ideas on what to write.

Poquoson Ponderings

By Lauris Paden

The curtain is about to fall on the Human Drama of 1982, a production in which, paradoxically, we're both audience and actors. As it is with any play, there are characters who play supporting roles, whose unobtrusive presence we often take for granted, but without whom the play would be less meaningful. Therefore, I would like to applaud a bit louder at curtain call for some cast members who made this year's play a success for me.

Henry Hubbard who, for eleven years, has so faithfully delivered our mail and whose cheerful friendly personality makes his daily official visits seem more like the personal services of a friend.

The members of the Poquoson Rescue Squad and Fire Department who volunteer their services. Think about that. When the fire whistle blows at 2 a.m. on a cold, rainy night, remember that the ones who respond have already put in a day's work at a full-time job and are now willingly, and for the most part anonymously, giving up their free time to accept responsibility for our welfare. In a world where cities burn and medical emergencies are ignored by striking paid employees, these men restore our faith. And I know from personal experience that when trouble strikes, their professionalism is matched only by their comforting concern.

Kathy Ricks at Farm Fresh, who always helpfully remembers that I can't lift anything heavy and who never so much as raises an exasperating eyebrow when I check out a cartload of groceries and then discover my checkbook is at home on the table.

Brad and Mathew Howard, ages 12 and 10, whose courteous and helpful efficiencey made this summer's work much easier, and who reaffirm our confidence in the play's youngest actors.

Olga Downey and Irene Smith whose work with the Animal Aid Society deserves special applause.

And a second curtain call for Chief Jack White and our efficient police department.

Some had only walk-on roles, but still made the 1982 production brighter Mary Wainwright, Kathy Insley, Connie Wornom Bush. And there is Becky Wright, good teacher; Kay Webb, good neighbor; and Rosalie Bauer, good friend.

Most important, there are the members of our own families whose roles are so familiar, we often forget to applaud them at all.

These are only a few of the cast; there are many others, and before we start rehearsals for the 1983 production, to all of you who made this year's play worthwhile, center stage, and take a bow.

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